

67,200-1224
2003-0217

Abstract of the Disclosure

[0039] A load-lock chamber having a gas-sealing bellows to prevent the flow of gases into the chamber through a shaft opening is disclosed. The load-lock chamber includes a chamber wall that defines a chamber interior. A bellows housing is defined by the chamber wall, and a shaft opening provided in the bellows housing. A flexible bellows is provided in the bellows housing and seals the shaft opening from the chamber interior. A lift shaft having a cassette stage extends through the shaft opening and the bellows and into the chamber interior. A shaft rotation device may engage the lift shaft to rotate the lift shaft and cassette stage in the chamber interior.